PROPOSED NEW CHURCH IN GLASGOW.—A church is to be built for the Rev. Mr. Porter, on the lands which formed part of the old orchard at Willowbank, on the south side of Sauchiehall-road, and which is now the property of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The style of architecture chosen is Gothic, with a spire shooting up some 180 feet from the ground. The church is calculated to contain from 600 to 700 sitters: galleries, common in Presbyterian places of worship, are dispensed with; and the interior will be fitted up with stone pillars, ashlar walls, clerestory windows, and an oaken roof. The pulpit will be constructed of carved stone. In connection with the church there is to be a large school-room, with the usual accommodations of vestry, deacons' room, and dwelling-house for church-officer. The plans are by Mr. Emmett, architect. The total cost is estimated at 10,000*l*.

"BURGLARS DEFIED: LOCKS: TELEGRAPHS."—Under this title, the *Bradford Observer*, one only of a host who have been ringing timeous alarums on our bells and bell-turrets, says, "THE BUILDER asks, could not bell-wires, or other apparatus connected with bells, be secretly attached to lockwork or doors, so as at once to give warning on the slightest attempt to pick the lock or move a bolt? There is no doubt of the possibility of what is here suggested, and *apropos* of the subject, we are reminded of an "electric indicator,' the operation of which is characterised by all the astonishing features of the miraculous telegraph. Secret wires are laid with well contrived, though simple communications, with all the doors and windows of a dwelling-house, outhouse, stables, &c., the *modus operandi* of which is, that the instant any door, window, &c., is ever so stealthily opened, an electric circuit is completed, and the indicator (a bell under lock and key in the master's room is instantaneously rung." Even the police have been taking personal precautions based on the principle suggested. The chief superintendent of the Liverpool police has had fitted up in his house an alarum on the attic floor, with a weight falling the whole depth of the house [a few wheels would have obviated the necessity for so great a fall], and communications made with every door and window, so that the moment any of them are opened, after the apparatus is fixed for the night, the alarum is set in motion and a thundering and continuous noise excited. This is precisely what was intended in our first suggestion. A Liverpool contemporary, in noticing it, gives another "nut for thieves to crack." It is "even more simple and less expensive," says the writer, "than the one we have already described, being nothing more nor less than a 'cracker' of card-board, about the size of an envelope, and to be called 'the anti-burglar.' To each end is attached a loop, by which it may be connected with the door and door-frame, or with the window, on small hooks, so that when either is opened the cracker is severed and a loud report takes place. The burglar would either imagine himself fired at or would be scared away by the alarm, which would wake a very sound sleeper."

THE METROPOLITAN PARISHES AND THE SEWERS COMMISSION.—An adjourned meeting of delegates was held on Tuesday last in Marylebone Court-house, when it was resolved —"That a committee be appointed to confer together for the purpose of preparing and laying before the representatives of the metropolitan parishes a plan for controlling the local expenditure of the metropolitan boroughs, in reference to the administration of sewers."

GLASS.—Water-pipes of glass appear to be getting into use in America. Mr. W. T. De Golyer, of Schenectady, N.Y. has a patent for making tubes of such a form as to couple different lengths together, and form glass conductors for water, of any length. About 1,000 rods of glass pipes, of different diameters, have already been laid down; and Mr. J. Matthews, of this city, has tested the strength of a pipe 1¼ inch in diameter, made at the Albany Glass Works, and found it capable of standing a pressure of 200 lbs. to the square inch, or a column of water 459 feet high. Mr. Wilson, of Hastings, a few miles out of the city, has connected these glass tubes with a hydraulic ram, to stand a pressure of 80 feet high. After the joints were cemented only four days, the water was let on, and the joints were found perfectly tight.——A Wigan paper states that the Newton Crown-glass Works are to be once more put into active operation, with a great number of hands, by a Mr. Stock, of Liverpool.——The Treasury have issued a special order deciding the duty to be charged on foreign glass apparatus for chemical purposes on importation; such articles as rough ground stoppers, caps, and punty marks, not to be deemed a cutting within the meaning of the rates in the Act 8 & 9 Vict. c. 90; but to be subject to the duty of 1d. per lb. only as white flint glass goods, not cut, engraved, or otherwise ornamented.

ART AND SCIENCE AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.—We are glad to be able to state that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress intend to give, during the Great Exhibition in the ensuing year, in addition to the usual entertainments at the Mansion-house, several evening *conversazioni*, to which will be invited, not only the notable men of our own country, but all foreigners of distinction who may then be in London. This liberal project of the Chief Magistrate and the Lady Mayoress will not only give a new feature to civic hospitality, but will accomplish the desirable object of introducing to each other persons of eminence of all nations who might otherwise remain without the advantage of such knowledge. The late Lord Mayor entertained every class of men but those distinguished in art, science, or literature, through want of sense in those who arranged his parties. The present Lord Mayor appears to have a juster appreciation of those who mould, improve, and delight the world. He seems to be on a right tack, and we advise him to be his own steersman. He has a fine opportunity to ennoble the name of Musgrove.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE PARISH OF ST. LUKE, CHELSEA.—In THE BUILDER of August 31, and more particularly in that of September 7, reference is made to the intention of the board of guardians of Chelsea to re-assess their parish by a paid surveyor. Considerable opposition to this has been offered by some of the parishioners in vestry as well as by several of the guardians. On Wednesday last, however, an order from the Poor-Law Board to revalue the parish was read, which directs "that a survey shall be made and taken of the messuages, lands, and other hereditaments liable to the poor-rates in the said parish of St. Luke, Chelsea, and that a valuation shall be made of the said messuages, lands, and other hereditaments, according to their annual value;" and directs the said guardians to appoint one or more fit person or persons to make and take such survey and valuation. It was afterwards agreed that the *intention* of revaluing the parish should be advertised.

STRIKE AND INTIMIDATION.—Messrs. Fox and Henderson, as contractors for the works of the Exhibition Building in Hyde Park, have had up, before the police magistrate at Marlborough-street, one of the glaziers employed by them, for threatening to make the firm "repent" having refused to give him an audience at the head of fifty fellow workmen, who had previously struck work along with him. The defendant produced some of these to prove that he had only said Mr. Fox *might* repent it. A correspondent informs us that the men were working at the Exhibition for 4*s*. per day, and did not complain. They had a document read to them on Friday, requiring them to put in 58 panes of glass, or upwards of 200 feet of glass for a day's work, for which they were to receive 4*s*. It being considered impossible to execute the quantity in a workman-like manner, and the firm not altering their proposals, the men thought proper to decline them. No man, he continues, can put in more than 35 to 40 panes per day, consequently his wages would be reduced to about 15*s*. per week.

EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS AT SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The inventions of the past year, now being exhibited at the house of the Society of Arts, Adelphi, merit the special notice of our readers. They comprise many new patents and registered and other inventions of interest to the building trades, sanitary improvers, and others. Amongst them are chimney tubes, the globe windguard, smoke conductor, filters, baths, gas meters, the torsional door-spring, handles and fastenings of doors, traps and grids, veneering machine, hollow brickwork, &c. &c. By the way, it is rather too late to patent the principle of hollow brickwork now, whatever may be the merit of new or peculiar forms of hollow bricks. In engineering and other mechanical departments of course there is also a fair proportion of novelties. Amongst these we perceived the yielding breakwater, already noticed in THE BUILDER, and a flexible lighthouse.

THE BROKEN GIRDER BRIDGE AT JOINER-STREET.—Sir John Rennie and Mr. Brunel have made a report, read at a general meeting of the Southwark Pavement Commissioners, in which they give it as their "joint and decided opinion that the bridge as constructed was insufficient, and ought not to be replaced by one of similar construction." Mr. Barlow, the South-Eastern Railway Company's engineer, has since sent a note to *The Times*, in which he says:—"I entirely differ from the conclusions at which these gentlemen have arrived, as I do not consider the principle of the bridge either incorrect or objectionable; and I trust, in justice to the patentee, Mr. Warren, that you will do me the favour to insert this letter." Events, it will be seen, have fully justified all our statements as to this matter.

THOROUGHFARE FROM THAMES-STREET TO THE DOCKS.—I take the liberty to call your attention to the fact that the old house built up against the interesting remnant of old London-wall, in Trinity-square, Tower-hill, is now in course of pulling down for rebuilding. This is a house which projects into George-street, by the bar, and forms one of the obstacles to the long-desired opening of a thoroughfare through this street from Thames-street to the Docks. Both on antiquarian and utilitarian grounds I think it would be very desirable, if it were possible, to put a stop to the rebuilding. The house abuts upon a piece of government ground which would be commercially improved in value by its removal. Could they be stimulated to purchase it?—A. Z.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—A memorial has been sent by a number of influential gentlemen to the Commissioners of Sewers, urging them to state whether they intend, under the Act 11 and 12 Vict. c. 112, to provide public conveniences previous to the crowding of the metropolis in May next, when the Industrial Exhibition will open.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—Having already noticed Mr. Bakewell's claim to the copying telegraph lately exhibited by him, we think it but justice to Mr. Bain, the inventor of a telegraph already at work in America, to state, that in a letter to the *Times* he lays claim to the same invention, as its true originator, having patented essentially the same principle so long back as 1843, under the name of the electro-chemical telegraph; and he states that it is this very instrument that now transmits intelligence over upwards of 3,000 miles in the United States.

ANOTHER GREAT FIRE IN AMERICA.—Upwards of one-half of the city of Fredericton, New Brunswick, has been lately burnt, including a large portion of its best buildings, hotels, Exchange, and places of business, with a spacious Wesleyan church and parsonage. The fire was still burning when the news was despatched.

BALLOONING IN AMERICA.—The steam and railway Alexanders having now realised their dominion over land and sea, are determinedly seeking a new world to conquer in the clouds. Not only are bold attempts now being made in various parts of Europe to realise this last grand object—even in lagging Spain, in fact, as well as in its more eager and ambitious *confrère*, France, and amongst ourselves,—but also in America, where a Captain Taggart lately ascended from Jersey City in a balloon with revolving fans and steering apparatus. "The captain," says the New York *Journal of Commerce*, "confidently asserts his ability to cross the Atlantic to Europe in three days." We shall be on the look-out for Captain Taggart. According to the New York *Herald*, however, he could not resist taking a dip into the Morris Canal by the way, and so determined was the self-guiding principle of his balloon that it unshipped him, and went ahead of its own accord, "on a bee-line for Boston."

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